developed and are being practiced in the country. Mass awareness campaign is being run to bring awareness for water as a scarce resource and need for water conservation and its efficient utilisation through peoples' participation.

Central Ground Water Board has taken up a Central Sector Scheme on 'Studies of Recharge to Ground Water' on pilot basis to appraise the applicability of these innovations. Under this, 174 schemes have been taken up in various parts of the country during Ninth Five Year Plan. Under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Ministry of Rural Development is also providing technical and financial assistance to the State Governments and other implementing agencies for rain water harvesting through Water Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof top rain water harvesting.

Accordingly, several State Governments have taken up the steps to preserve traditional water sources such as ponds, canals and rivers to supply drinking water in rural as well as urban areas. Government of Madhya Pradesh has launched Pani Roko Abhiyan and Government of Andhra Pradesh has started implementation of Neeru-Meeru (water and you) programme for water conservation. Government of Rajasthan has taken up the preservation of their traditional sources of water. Government of Maharashtra has started construction of Budkis, deepening and repairs of existing wells and other water sources. Government of Gujarat has also started rejuvenation of existing water sources.

Recharging of Ground Water in Gujarat

4162. SHRI RAJU PARMAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of sharp decline/shrinking of ground water table in most of the districts in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether Government have launched any comprehensive plan to fill the ground water artificially to avoid severe water crisis in the drought prone districts of Gujarat;

(c) if so, the funds earmarked for implementation of artificial ground water development scheme in Gujarat; and

(d) the funds allocated to Gujarat during the last three year and likely to be released in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) A long-term analysis of ground water levels by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) during the years 1982—2001 indicates decline in ground water levels by more than 20 cm/year in some parts of Ahmedabad, Amreli, Banaskantha, Baroda, Bharuch, Bhavnagar, Dangs, Jamnagar, Junagadh, Kheda, Kutch, Mehsana, Panchmahal, Rajkot, Sabarkantha, Surat, Surendranagar and Valsad districts of Gujarat.

(b) The Government of Gujarat have constructed about 20,000 check-dams and deepened about 1100 tanks under Sardar Patel Participatory Irrigation Scheme. Check-dams and tanks have proved as effective tools for water conservation and ground water recharge. The CGWB has also implemented 3 recharge projects in Gujarat during the Ninth Plan.

(c) Government of Gujarat has earmarked Rs. 210 crore for Sardar Patel Participatory Irrigation Scheme.

(d) The CGWB has allocated an amount of Rs. 20.05 lakh for implementation of 3 recharge schemes in Gujarat during last three years. The proposal for implementation of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Artificial Recharge of Ground Water and Rain Water Harvesting" during the Tenth Five Year Plan is at consultation stage. As such, details of funds likely to be released to the State of Gujarat in current year cannot be given at this stage.

Rural Water Conservation Scheme

4163. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA :

SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU) :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any plans to start Prime Minister Rural Water Conservation Scheme;

(b) if so, whether Central assistance would be given to States for developing and restoring water harvesting structures;

(c) if so, to what extent; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (d) The Prime Minister in his address to the Nation on Independence Day-2002 has stated that a scheme *viz.*